

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A low friction fiber comprising:
 - a polymeric component; and
 - a low friction component that includes at least an ultrahigh molecular weight silicon,
wherein the polymeric component is combined with the low friction component, thereby imparting onto the fiber a low coefficient of friction characteristic which is of a non-temporary nature.
2. (Original) The low friction fiber according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric component is selected from the group consisting of polyester, nylon, acrylics, polyethylene, polyurethane and plastic copolymers.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The low friction fiber according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the polymeric component is about 30 wt % and the concentration of the low friction component is about 70 wt %.
5. (Original) The low friction fiber according to claim 1, wherein the coefficient of friction of the fiber is from about 0.22 to about 0.005
6. (Original) The low friction fiber according to claim 1, wherein the coefficient of friction of the fiber is from about 0.15 to about 0.01.

7. (Original) The low friction fiber according to claim 1, wherein the coefficient of friction of the fiber is from about 0.01 to about 0.005.

8. (Original) The low friction fiber according to claim 1, wherein the low friction component is a fluoroester.

9. (Currently Amended) An article comprised of a low friction fiber comprising:
a polymeric component; and
a low friction component that includes at least an ultra-high molecular weight silicon,
wherein the polymeric component is combined with the low friction component, thereby imparting onto the fiber a low coefficient of friction characteristic which is of a non-temporary nature.

10. (Currently Amended) A low friction fiber comprising:
a polymeric component; and
a low friction component that includes at least an ultra-high molecular weight silicon,
wherein the concentration of the polymeric component is about 30 wt % of the fiber and the concentration of the low friction component is about 70 wt % of the fiber, and wherein the polymeric component is combined with the low friction component, thereby imparting onto the fiber a low coefficient of friction characteristic which is of a non-temporary nature.

11. (Original) The low friction fiber of claim 1, having a denier of from about 0.5 to about 1500.

12. (Original) The low friction fiber of claim 8, having a denier of from about 0.5 to about 1500.

13. (Currently Amended) A low friction fiber comprising:
a polymeric component; and
a low friction component that includes at least an ultra-high molecular weight silicon,
wherein the low friction component is fluorinated, and wherein the polymeric component
is combined with the low friction component, thereby imparting onto the fiber a low coefficient
of friction characteristic which is of a non-temporary nature.

14. (Original) The low friction fiber of claim 1, which further comprises flame retardants,
antimicrobials, and anti-static agents.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of imparting a low coefficient of friction characteristic
onto a fiber comprising the steps of:
a) combining a polymeric component and a low friction component; and
b) forming a fiber from the combination of the polymeric component and the low
friction component that includes at least an ultra-high molecular weight silicon.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the polymeric component is selected
from the group consisting of polyester, nylon, acrylics, polyethylene, polyurethane and
other
plastic copolymers.

17. (Cancelled)
18. (Original) A method of reducing the coefficient of friction in an article which comprises incorporating a low friction fiber according to claim 1 into the article.
19. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the article comprises apparel.
20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the article comprises apparel.
21. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the article comprises footwear.
22. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the article comprises footwear.
23. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of mattresses, upholstery, bedding, bedsheets, sheets, pillows, pillow cases, mattress and pads.
24. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of mattresses, upholstery, bedding, bedsheets, sheets, pillows, pillow cases, mattress and pads.
25. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the low friction fibers can be incorporated overall or in specific areas of the article.

26. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the low friction fibers can be incorporated overall or in specific areas of the article.

27. (Original) The article of claims 9, wherein the low friction fibers can be incorporated in a single layer or in multilayers.

28. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the low friction fibers can be incorporated in a single layer or in multilayers.